

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (New) An image pickup apparatus capable of shooting a picture in a wide range comprising a plurality of adjacent image pickup units,

wherein the fields of view of adjacent image pickup units within the image pickup apparatus overlap each other;

wherein each image pickup unit comprises:

a front lens;

a lens group; and

an image pickup device;

wherein the lens group is positioned between the front lens and the image pickup device;

wherein, within each image pickup unit, if a point at which a principal ray at an end of an angle of view is extended to cross an optical axis is defined as a viewpoint center, the front lens, the lens group, and the image pickup device are arranged such that the viewpoint center is located behind the image pickup device;

wherein, if a cross-section of the image pickup unit extends down an optical axis of the image pickup unit, each of the image pickup units satisfy a conditional equation $AL < fD$, where:

A is a cross-sectional length of the image pickup device within the cross-section;

L is a cross-sectional length from the front lens to the image pickup device within the cross-section;

f is a whole focal length of a lens system comprising the front lens and the lens group; and

D is a cross-sectional length of the front lens within the cross-section; and

wherein the viewpoint centers of the plurality of image pickup units lie within a sphere with a diameter of 20 mm.

4. (New) An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the fields of view of adjacent image pickup units within the image pickup apparatus overlap each other in a plurality of directions and the image pickup units satisfy the conditional equation in all of the plurality of directions.

5. (New) An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a first front lens of a first image pickup unit and a second front lens of a second image pickup unit adjacent to the first image pickup unit are shaped following a cross-section passing through the viewpoint center and a principle ray at the end of an angle of view.